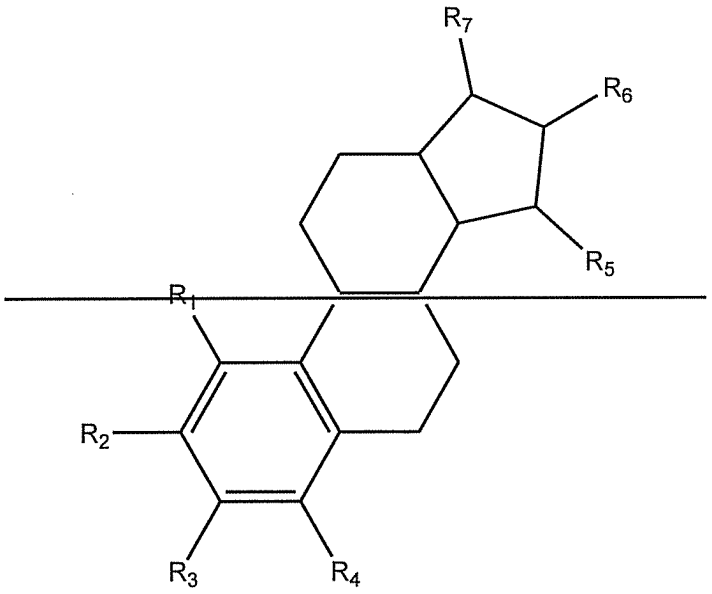
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

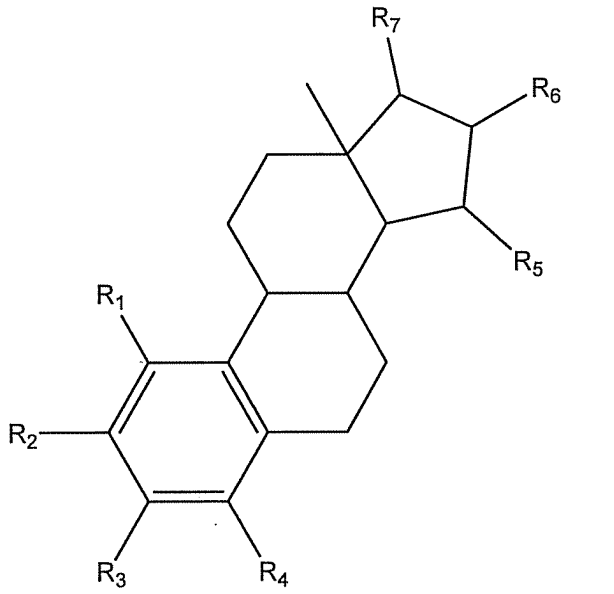
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method of treating or ~~preventing~~ prophylactically treating an immune mediated disorder in a mammal, said immune mediated disorder being selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis; ~~autoimmune diseases;~~ rheumatoid arthritis; and osteoarthritis~~; insulin dependent diabetes (type I diabetes); systemic lupus erythrematosis; psoriasis; immune pathologies induced by infectious agents, viral infections or bacterial infections; tuberculosis, lepromatous leprosy; transplant rejection; graft versus host disease; atopic conditions; eosinophilia; conjunctivitis and glomerular nephritis~~, and said method comprising the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of an estrogenic component selected from the group consisting of;
substances represented by the following formula





in which formula R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 independently are a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group with 1-5 carbon atoms; each of R_5, R_6, R_7 is a hydroxyl group; no more than 3 of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 are hydrogen atoms;

precursors capable of liberating a substance according to the aforementioned formula ~~when used in the present method~~, which precursors are derivatives of the estrogenic substances wherein the hydrogen atom of at least one of the hydroxyl groups has been substituted by an acyl radical of a hydrocarbon carboxylic, sulfonic acid or sulfamic acid of 1-25 carbon atoms; tetrahydrofuranyl; tetrahydropyranal; or a straight or branched chain glycosydic residue containing 1-20 glycosidic units per residue; and

mixtures of one or more of the aforementioned substances and/or precursors.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein R_3 represents a hydroxyl group or an alkoxy group.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein at least 3 of the groups R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 represent hydrogen atoms.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the estrogenic component exhibits an 8β, 9α, 13β, 14α configuration of the steroid-skeleton.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the method comprises the uninterrupted administration of the estrogenic component during a period of at least 5 days.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the method comprises oral or subcutaneous administration of the estrogenic component.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 23, wherein the method comprises oral administration.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the estrogenic component is administered in an amount of at least 1 μg per kg of bodyweight per day.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the immune mediated disorder is a T-lymphocyte mediated disorder and/or a chronic inflammatory disease.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 26, wherein the immune mediated disorder is a Th1 mediated disorder.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the immune mediated disorder is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, insulin dependent diabetes (type I diabetes), systemic lupus erythrematosis and psoriasis.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn): A pharmaceutical formulation comprising the estrogenic component as defined in claim 18, an immunotherapeutic agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 29, wherein the formulation comprises at least 10 μg of the estrogenic component.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 29, wherein the formulation comprises at least 1 μg of the immunotherapeutic agent.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 29, wherein the immunotherapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of anti-inflammatory agents; D-pencillamine; 4-aminoquinoline agents; azathioprine; methotrexate; cyclosporin; monoclonal antibodies to T lymphocytes, adhesion molecules ors to cytokines and growth factors; Tumor Necrosis Factor Receptor (TNFR)-IgG; IL-1 receptor antagonists; ICE inhibitors; betaferon; vitamin D; 1α,25-dihydroxyvitamin D_3 and 1α,25-dihydroxyvitamin D_2; agents that specifically bind a molecule selected from the group consisting of a T cell receptor, an antigen and a HLA molecule; organic gold derivatives such as a gold sodium thiomalate, aurothioglucose, or auranofin and an angiogenesis inhibitor.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn): An oral unit dosage form comprising a pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 29.